

Message Text

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11

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-04

L-01 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8379

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

S E C R E T USNATO 5912

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: BELGIAN APPROACH REGARDING COMMON CEILING

1. BELGIAN REP AT SPC MEETINGS ON MBFR (BURNY) ON OCT 23 CALLED ON MISSION OFFICER REGARDING A PROPOSAL BELGIUM INTENDS TO MAKE IN THE AD HOC GROUP CONCERNING THE COMMON CEILING. HE SAID BELGIUM WAS INFORMING CERTAIN COUNTRIES BILATERALLY IN CAPITALS, AND ALSO IN NATO, OF THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL.

2. BURNY SAID THAT BELGIUM WOULD LIKE TO MOVE TO A DISCUSSION WITH THE PACT OF THE COMMON CEILING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BELGIUM IS CONCERNED THAT THE PRESENT DISCUSSION ON PHASING HAS BEEN INCONCLUSIVE. BELGIUM, LIKE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, IS COMING UNDER INCREASING PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURE FOR TROOP REDUCTIONS, WHICH COULD BE MORE INTENSE BY SPRING, 1975. EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS CAN EXPLAIN TO THEIR PARLIAMENTS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT REDUCE GROUND FORCES PRIOR TO AN MBFR AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, PARLIAMENTS WILL INQUIRE AS TO THE STATE OF WORK IN MBFR.

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PHASING IS A DIFFICULT SUBJECT TO EXPLAIN TO PARLIAMENTARIANS. FURTHERMORE, PARLIAMENTARIANS CAN LEGITIMATELY ASK WHAT IS IN THE SUBJECT OF PHASING WHICH BENEFITS THE EUROPEANS. THEREFORE, BELGIUM WISHES THE AD HOC GROUP TO INITIATE A DISCUSSION WITH THE

EAST OF THE COMMON CEILING ON GROUND FORCES AT AN EARLY DATE. BELGIUM REGARDS THIS AS A TACTICAL MATTER, AND THEREFORE WILL RAISE IT IN THE AD HOC GFOUP, RATHER THAN IN NATO.

3. MISSION OFFICER THANKED BURNY FOR HIS EXPLANATION. HE ASKED IF BELGIUM WANTED THE AHG TO DISCUSS THE COMMON CEILING ITSELF WITH THE EAST, IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PACT WOULD REJECT SUCH A SUBJECT OUTRIGHT. BURNY SAID BELGIUM RECOGNIZES THAT AHG MAY NEED TO APPROACH THIS SUBJECT UNDER ANOTHER GUISE. HE SAID THAT ALLIES WOULD BENEFIT WHETHER OR NOT PACT AGREED TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT. ALLIED GOVERNMENTS COULD USE PACT REFUSAL TO ADVANTAGE WITH THEIR PARLIAMENTARIANS. MISSION OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT US PURPOSE IN SUGGESTING INTRODUCTION OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER INTO MBFR WAS PRECISELY TO PROBE THE EAST ON WHETHER THIS AFFORDED THE ALLIES A MEANS AT MINIMAL COST OF OBTAINING PACT AGREEMENT TO THE COMMON CEILING. MCAULIFFE

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TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
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LONDON
MBFR VIENNA
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